

In Claim 18 "thereby increasing the degree of mixing and hybridization" has been
inserted at the end of the claim after "such bubbles." T.S.
4/4/07

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are free and clear of the prior art of record because the prior art of record does not teach barrier means with a plurality of bubble-fracturing elements in a planar region parallel to a substrate surface having a microarray thereon. The closest prior art of record is that of Schembri et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,186,659 B1, issued 13 February 2001). While Schembri et al teaches a microarray hybridization device comprising mechanical sources for forming bubbles on the inner surface of the substrate, Schembri does not teach barrier means with a plurality of bubble-fracturing elements in a planar region parallel to a substrate surface having a microarray thereon.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert T. Crow whose telephone number is (571) 272-1113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on (571) 272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.